

Amendment
Serial No. 09/885,698

US010296

REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 29, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Independent claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 14 have been amended to further clarify the Applicant's invention. Claims 1 and 3-16 are pending.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as amended and in view of following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Tanaka et al. European Patent Application EP 0 935 363 A1 ("Tanaka") in view of Seshadri U.S. Patent No. 5,544,328 ("Seshadri").

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A cross media error protection system for multimedia data having a plurality of media streams of different type, the system comprising: a calculation system for determining the size of each media stream over a particular time interval and the relative proportions of said media streams; a packaging system for packaging the multimedia data into discrete packets, wherein each packet includes a plurality of fields, and wherein data segments from each of the media streams are placed into different ones of the plurality of fields; and an insertion system for inserting error protection data into one of the plurality of fields in each packet, wherein a size of each of the plurality of fields is proportional to a size of each of the plurality of the media streams.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification at page 6, lines 20-22 and page 7, line 1 describes the signal processing arrangement, wherein incoming media streams are measured "over a particular time interval" to determine their size and "relative proportions". The "multimedia data" is then packaged "into discrete packets," these packets containing "data segments from each of the media streams." That is, the system may receive, for example, two types of media streams (See Page 7, lines 1-4).

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The first stream, measured over a given interval may be twice the size of the second stream and is thus allocated a field in each packet that is twice the size of the field allocated to the second stream. These fields are proportional to each other. The proportionality of the fields helps to reduce the chance of data starvation for thin media streams. (See Page 8, lines 19-23 and Page 9, lines 1-2). As the media streams are divided into smaller data segments in each transmitted packet, the loss of a packet is much less detrimental to the receptor. Thus, if a single packet is lost the same proportion of each type of media is lost and the overall damage is absorbed equally (See FIGS. 2-3 and Page 8, lines 16-23 and Page 9, lines 1-2).

In contrast, Tanaka teaches that, "packet length changes according to information content of *each* media information or equivalently, packet length changes in proportion of, or according to, information content of *each* media information." (Emphasis added) (See Office Action, Section 2.2). Therefore, Tanaka teaches a system in which the fields in a packet are variable according to the size of each individual media stream and are not, by design, proportional to *each other*. In Tanaka, a packet may contain equal size fields of multiple media even if the incoming streams are different sizes. (See Tanaka, FIG. 11 and paragraph [0046]). By definition, the fields are in some proportion to the original stream, but will not be in proportion to each other over the course of the transmission because the supply of the smaller incoming stream will be exhausted earlier and later packets will not contain any of that media information. Therefore, if a packet is lost, there is proportionally more information lost from the smaller media source according to the teachings of Tanaka.

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Tanaka also states that packet length "varies from frame to frame" due to the fact that a "variable length encoding scheme is typically adopted as the image encoding scheme" and that "such a variation in AL-SDU [packet] length can also be coped with" (See Tanaka paragraph [0088]). Here, Tanaka is describing the variation in packet length as a disadvantage that may be overcome by adding "null code" (see Tanaka paragraph 15, sections 20-22), not as a delimiter as maintained by the Examiner. The null code additions are actually an additional field added to make all packets the same length and are not related to determining field as in the present invention. The variations referred to here are in overall *packet* length, not in *field* size, as required in the present invention.

Further, Tanaka is referring to a method of encoding bits of data for transmission where the media information bits may be represented together as the sum of their parts. In fact, this teaches away from Applicants' claimed invention since the media information bits are combined (" $A=A_1+A_2+A_3$ ") and transmitted as an "A-bit information bit group", and not separated into a "plurality of fields", as recited in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable over prior arts. Applicants have found no indication in Tanaka or Sehadrai that even shows recognition of the advantages or the desirability of the limitations recited in claim 1. Similar features are also recited in other independent claims 6, 8, 10 and 14.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same

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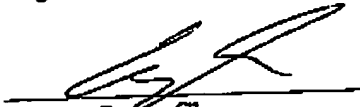
reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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